

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, line 19 through page 12, line 1 with:

Q1 Accordingly, the hybrid valve apparatus provides a switching system which regulates fluid communication of the aspiration source, such as an aspiration actuator, and the dispensing source, such as a dispensing actuator, with the sample path containing the sample or reagent fluid. Whether the hybrid valve apparatus is in the aspiration condition or the dispensing condition, at no time will the valve assembly allow the sample path be in fluid communication with both the aspiration actuator and the dispensing actuator, simultaneously. This arrangement is beneficial in that the dispensing source can not be contaminated by the sampled fluid due to the isolating of the dispensing source from the sample path during the aspiration of the fluid into the sample path. Moreover, each sample path is operatively switched between the aspiration actuator and the dispensing actuator enabling the micro-metered, non-contact parallel distribution of the reagents or sample fluid to the test site.